

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The Office Action mailed June 4, 2003 has been carefully reviewed. Reconsideration of this application, as amended and in view of the following remarks, is respectfully requested. The claims presented for examination are: claims 21-26, inclusive, and new claim 27. The electrode of claim 21 has been amended to require that the sheet of an electrosorptive medium is secured to the conductive layer at contact locations comprising a surface area less than a total surface area of the sheet that is otherwise in contact with said support member that is capable of collecting current. Support for the amendment is found in Applicants' specification, inter alia, on pages 15, 17, 20, 32, 33, 37 and 38. Accompanying this communication is a petition to extend the prosecution for two additional months.

RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT

Applicants elect claims 21-26, without traverse.

35 USC 102 Rejection

Claims 21 through 24 stand rejected under 35 USC 102 as being anticipated by US patent 5,425,858, issued to Farmer ("Farmer").

Applicants submit that Farmer does not disclose or suggest securing a conductive layer to a sheet of electrosorptive medium at contact locations that include a surface area less than a total surface area of the sheet that is otherwise in contact with the structural support. Farmer discloses in col. 10, line 55+ that the "...porous, conductive, monolithic material is bonded to the surface of the structural support..." However, nowhere in Farmer is it disclosed to secure the bonding locations of the electrosorptive medium at less than the surface area of the sheet

otherwise in contact with the structural support. The rejection for anticipation should be withdrawn.

Furthermore, rejection of the claims under 35 USC 103 for obviousness should not stand. Applicants direct the examiner to the table of data on page 36 and page 37, last paragraph, of Applicants' specification wherein it is indicated that more than a two fold improvement results from utilization of the claimed electrodes of the invention vs. electrodes taught in Farmer. Such results are not predictable from reading Farmer and clearly indicate the non-obviousness of the claimed electrodes.

The 35 USC 103 Rejection

Claims 25 and 26 stand rejection under 35 USC 103 as being obvious over Farmer in view of US patent 5,547,581 issued to Andelman.

In light of Applicants' amendment to independent claim 21 and arguments above, it is submitted that the dependent claims 25 and 26 are patentable and the rejection should be withdrawn.

SUMMARY

The undersigned respectfully submits that, in view of the foregoing amendments, and the foregoing remarks, the rejections of the claims raised in the Office Action dated June 4, 2003 have been fully addressed and overcome, and the present application is believed to be in condition for allowance. It is respectfully requested that this application be reconsidered, that the claims be allowed, and that this case be passed to issue. If it is believed that a telephone conversation would expedite the prosecution of the present application, or clarify matters with regard to its allowance, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned attorney at (925) 422-7820.

Respectfully submitted,



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